

STATEMENT BY

MR. PEDRO JOÃO DE AZEVEDO DAVANE

ON THE

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

15 AUGUST 1986.

MR CHAIRMAN,

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND THROUGH YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION FOR ALLOWING US TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEBATE.

AT THE OUTSET, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP SATISFACTION IN SEEING YOU PRESIDE OVER THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE. THE RECORDS OF YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR PEOPLE TO THE JUST CAUSES OF THE PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE ARE WELL-KNOWN AND ENJOY A GREAT ADMIRATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT UNDER YOUR COMPETENT CHAIRMANSHIP THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS NOBLE RESPONSIBILITIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I WILL START MY STATEMENT BY REAFFIRMING THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT ATTACH TO THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR. OUR ATTACHEMENT TO THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR CAN BE ASCRIBED NOT ONLY FROM THE FIVE CENTURIES OF COLONIAL HISTORY WE SHARED, BUT ABOVE ALL FROM OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, PEACE AND JUSTICE.

11

THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE, AND THEREFORE, I NEED NOT BURDEN THE COMMITTEE BY ELABORATING ON THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE TERRITORY. NEVERTHELESS, THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH ITS SECURITY COUNCIL, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HAVE SINCE 1975, DEBATED LENGTHILY ON THE QUESITON OF EAST TIMOR AND HAVE ADOPTED SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT. IT HAS ESTABLISHED BY FAR THE ELEMENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR MAY BE SOLVED. YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE UNITED NATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPYING FORCES FROM EAST TIMOR AND FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE SELF-DTERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORY.

TO OUR DISMAY, THE RESPONSE OF INDONESIA, WHICH ~~IRONICALLY~~ IRONICALLY HAPPENS TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE, HAVE BEEN OF COMPLETE ARROGANT DEFIANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. FAR FROM COMPLYING WITH THE DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INDONESIA'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN A COMPLETE DISREGARD OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN A CONTINUOUS WAR OF AGGRESSION WHICH HAS NOW AMMOUNTED TO A GENOCIDE WAR AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF MANKIND, WE FIND THAT IT IS A FACT THAT DOMINATED PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS STRUGGLE TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE OPPRESSOR. THIS IS A TRUTH WE MUST REALIZE AND ACCEPT REGARDLESS OF THE REGION CONCERNED AND REGARDLESS OF TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES. REALITIES SUCH AS FREEDOM, SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE ARE FUNDAMENTAL IN THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT SPARE SACRIFICES, GREAT OR SMALL TO ACHIEVE THESE IDEALS.

THIS TRUTH IS NOT AN EXCEPTION IN THE CASE OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR. IN FACT, SINCE THE INDONESIAN INVASION OF EAST TIMOR IN 1975, THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR STRONG DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE THROUGH A HEROIC AND TENACIOUS RESISTANCE TO FOREIGN OCCUPATION.

CONFRONTED WITH THE REVOLT OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR, THE INDONESIANS RETALIATED BY MOUNTING A MASSIVE MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY, WHICH TOTALLED TO MORE THAN 30,000 SOLDIERS AND BACKED BY THE MOST MODERN WEAPONRY IN ITS ARSENAL. FURTHERMORE, IT HAS EMBARKED IN

A SYSTEMATICAL CAMPAIGN OF EXTERMINATION AND GENOCIDE.
AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS CAMPAIGN, 20,000 OR $\frac{1}{3}$ OF THE
TOTAL POPULATION HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION WAS ESTABLISHED
WITH VERY SPECIFIC AND PRECISE MANDATE AND THAT IS TO
SEEK A WAY FOR ALL COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES TO
EXERCISE THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION
AND INDEPENDENCE. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, SEVERAL
COUNTRIES ATTAINED THEIR INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING THAT OF
MY OWN, AND WE ARE INDEED VERY HAPPY BY THE BRILLIANT
WAY THE COMMITTEE DISCHARGED ITS NOBLE RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR DESERVE MORE SUPPORT FROM THE
UNITED NATIONS. MORE CONCRETE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH
A VIEW TO PROMOTING THEIR CAUSE AND THEIR HEROIC STRUGGLE.
AS LONG AS EAST TIMOR IS A COLONY AND AN OCCUPIED TERRITORY,
AS LONG AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTIONS REMAIN UNIMPLEMENTED, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENERAL AND OF THIS COMMITTEE
IN PARTICULAR TO TAKE UP WHATEVER ACTIONS ARE DEEMED
NECESSARY WITH AN END IN VIEW OF FINDING AN INTERNATIONALLY
ACCEPTED SOLUTION. SUCH A SOLUTION MUST FULLY TAKE INTO

ACCOUNT THE REAL ROOT CAUSES OF THE TRAGEDY OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR, THE DENIAL OF THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM INTO ITS PURELY HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS MUST BE VIGOROUSLY REJECTED FOR THEY WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN TIRELESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO FIND A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR. WE REGRET THAT SO FAR HIS ACHIEVEMENT HAD NOT BEEN SO ENCOURAGING AND WE STRONGLY CONDEMN THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT SITUATION. WE URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONTINUE HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM TOGETHER WITH THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED, NAMELY, THE ADMINISTRATIVE POWER OF THE TERRITORY, INDONESIA AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE REITERATES ITS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR IN THEIR STRUGGLE UNTIL THE ATTAINMENT OF THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL OF ENJOYING THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, SELF-DETERMINATION AND PEACE.

THANK YOU.